

Danielle at College of Menominee Nation Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) Nursing Career Ladder Program

Danielle received her Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) credential with the help of the College of Menominee Nation's Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) program from the Office of Family Assistance. She completed her CNA class on July 30, 2012, and passed her certification exam on the first attempt. Currently, she is a full-time student at the College of Menominee Nation, working on completing her biological sciences requirements so that she can enter the Associate Degree Program in Nursing. Her GPA is 3.58 on a 4.0 scale.

Shortly before the semester began, Danielle ran into some trouble with child care because her husband had switched jobs. She applied to a county agency for child care assistance but was denied. Then she met with a support services coordinator in the HPOG program to discuss this barrier and learned the program could assist her with child care so she could attend CNA class and additional classes this past summer and fall.

Danielle says, "Because of the grant, I am proudly able to say I am a full-time mom, student, and wife. My daughters now go to day care every day so I can attend classes. The HPOG grant has been life changing for me; without it I would not be where I am today. Education is very important to me, but unfortunately I have just been unable to fulfill my educational dreams on my own financially. Having three children and trying to make time to go back to school is tough, but in the end it will all be worth it because of HPOG."

Sharon at College of Menominee Nation
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Sharon wanted to go to nursing school. After some research she found that College of Menominee Nation was the place for her. A receptionist in the nursing department asked Sharon if she knew about the HPOG grants. She did not, but shortly after applying she was accepted into the grant. After a few visits to get started (assessments, intake, and development of a success plan), she was sure it was the place for her. She stated she was treated like a person and not a number.

“People understand my situation, and sometimes the understanding and listening makes all the difference for me. I live in Gillet, work in Green Bay, have children, and go to college. It is stressful. I am placed in experiences at the college with others in the same situation; they understand all the demands of me.... Some weight has been taken off me knowing that my tuition is paid, which will further progress my educational aspirations post-RN nursing. I can work as a nurse and adequately support my family while I slowly acquire my BSN. Currently, I am and have been a CNA for eight years now.”

HPOG has a program in place where students and applicants are evaluated for nursing readiness, and Sharon is almost ready to enter the nursing program. She has identified math proficiency as the number one goal and reading as a secondary goal as she works on getting herself academically ready. She has also received tuition and gas assistance. Sharon knows she has her HPOG support services coordinator to problem solve with her if she should ever have a barrier to attending school and performing well. She states she is more confident about her success now and is more likely to follow through with the program because some fears have been lifted.